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THE COMMISSION FOR THE MAUBERE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS - CDPM

The Commission for the Maubere People's Rights - CDPM is a Portuguese NGO, whose primary aim is the restoration of peace and legality to East Timor.

Founded in 1981, CDPM is run by Portuguese, mainly volunteer workers, who devote their spare time to the issue of East Timor. A key factor in the setting up of the Commission was the Session of the Permanent Court of Peoples, held in Lisbon in 1981 and attended by human rights specialists and experts on East Timor itself.

CDPM works to: contribute to the study and dissemination of Timorese culture; promote solidarity with East Timor; defend the rights of the East Timorese, including their right to self-determination and independence.

To achieve these goals, CDPM focuses its efforts on four main areas of activity:

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION: The organisation has a well-stocked documentation centre. It publishes the monthly bulletin **Informação Timor Leste** (East Timor Information) and contributes to the electronic conference *reg.easttimor* and the newsgroup *soc. culture.portuguese.*

LOBBYING AUTHORITIES: CDPM maintains informal, direct and frequent contacts with the authorities and prepares dossiers and reports for various organisations and institutions.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: CDPM regularly meets with other organisations working to promote human rights and peace. It plays an active role at both the UN Decolonisation Committee and the UN Human Rights Commission, and meets annually with East Timor solidarity groups from all over the world, in order to plan co-ordinated action strategies.

CREATING GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS: It organises seminars, conferences and information sessions, maintains close links with the media, organises exhibitions and prepares/distributes audio-visual materials on different aspects of Timorese life (history, culture, background on recent events, etc.) with a view to increasing the public's understanding of the situation in Timor.

CLOSE LINKS WITH THE TIMORESE: CDPM maintains close links with the Timorese communities in Portugal and Australia.

CDPM - Comissão para os Direitos do Povo Maubere
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